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CLAIMS

1   1.   A method for monitoring activity on a computer
2   network, comprising:
3   providing a map of a group of resources, which are
4   accessible via the computer network;
5   tracking access of the resources in the group by
6   computer users, so as to identify one or more of the
7   users with respective resources that they are accessing;
8   and
9   registering with the map an identification of the
10   one or more users and the respective resources that they
11   are accessing.

1   2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the
2   map comprises generating a graph having nodes
3   corresponding to the resources and edges corresponding to
4   links between the resources.

1   3.   A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the
2   map comprises mapping a group of pages configured for
3   reading by a browser program.

1   4.   A method according to claim 3, wherein mapping the
2   group of pages comprises mapping pages of a World Wide
3   Web site.

1   5.   A method according to claim 3, wherein tracking the
2   access comprises receiving notification when one of the
3   users enters or leaves one of the pages.

1   6.   A method according to claim 5, wherein receiving the
2   notification comprises monitoring at least some of the
3   pages using a synchronous event server coupled to the
4   network and receiving event indications from the server
5   with respect to the pages.

1   7.   A method according to claim 1, wherein registering
2   the identification comprises providing for one or more of

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3   the resources respective lists of the users accessing the

4   resources.

1   8.   A method according to claim 1, wherein registering

2   the identification comprises providing on the map for one

3   or more of the resources indications of the respective

4   numbers of users accessing the resources.

1   9.   A method according to claim 8, wherein providing the

2   indications comprises providing an icon having the form

3   of a container for receiving a substance, such that a

4   fill level of the substance in the container indicates a

5   relative number of the users accessing the respective

6   resource.

1   10.   A method according to claim 1, wherein registering

2   the identification comprises selecting one of the users

3   and marking on the map the resources that the selected

4   user has accessed.

1   11.   A method according to claim 1, and comprising

2   initiating a synchronous communication with at least one

3   of the users responsive to the registered identification

4   of the user with the respectively-accessed resource while

5   the user is accessing the resource.

1   12.   A method according to claim 11, wherein initiating

2   the synchronous communication comprises opening a chat

3   session with one or more of the users accessing a given

4   resource.

1   13.   A method for visualizing access to a computer

2   resource, comprising:

3   counting the number of users accessing the resource;

4   displaying an identification of the resource on a

5   computer display; and

6   displaying an icon in association with the

7   identification, the icon having the form of a container

8 for receiving a substance, such that a fill level of the
9 substance in the container indicates the number of users
10 accessing the resource.

1 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the
2 substance comprises a fluid, whose level in the container
3 rises as the number increases.

1 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein a color
2 representing the substance inside the container changes
3 as the number increases.

1 16. A method according to claim 13, wherein the resource
2 comprises a Web page, and wherein counting the number of
3 users accessing the resource comprises counting a current
4 number of visitors to the Web page.

1 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein counting the
2 current number of visitors to the Web page comprises
3 counting visitors to a first Web page, and wherein
4 displaying the icon comprising displaying the icon on a
5 second Web page.

1 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the second
2 Web page includes a link to the first Web page.

1 19. A method for interactive access to a group of
2 resources via a computer network, comprising:
3   accessing a first resource in the group via the
4 network;
5   receiving information, responsive to accessing the
6 first resource, regarding a user who is accessing a
7 second resource in the group; and
8   communicating with the user via the network
9 responsive to the information, while the user is
10 accessing the second resource.

1 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the group of
2 resources comprises a group of Web pages configured for

3   reading by a browser program, such that accessing the

4   first resource comprises browsing a first page, and

5   accessing the second resource comprises browsing a second

6   page, and wherein communicating with the user comprises

7   communicating while browsing the pages.

1   21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the group of

2   pages comprises a World Wide Web site, and wherein

3   receiving the information comprises receiving information

4   regarding visitors to pages of the site other than the

5   first page.

1   22. A method according to claim 20, wherein receiving

2   the information comprises receiving notification when the

3   user enters or leaves one of the pages in the group.

1   23. A method according to claim 22, wherein receiving

2   the notification comprises monitoring at least some of

3   the pages using a synchronous event server coupled to the

4   network and receiving event indications from the server

5   with respect to the pages.

1   24. A method according to claim 20, wherein receiving

2   the information comprises receiving information

3   responsive to program code embedded in a textual

4   description of one or more of the Web pages read by the

5   browser program.

1   25. A method according to claim 19, wherein receiving

2   the information comprises receiving for at least the

3   second resource a list of users accessing the resource.

1   26. A method according to claim 25, wherein

2   communicating with the user comprises automatically

3   opening a communication link responsive to selection from

4   the list of the user with whom to communicate.

1 27. A method according to claim 19, wherein receiving
2 the information comprises receiving an indication of the
3 number of users accessing the second resource.

1 28. A method according to claim 19, wherein
2 communicating with the user comprises opening a chat
3 session with the user.

1 29. A method according to claim 19, wherein
2 communicating with the user comprises sharing an
3 application related to the resources with the user.

1 30. A terminal for managing a group of resources, which
2 are accessible via the computer network, comprising:
3   a display, adapted to display a map of the resources
4 in the group; and
5   a processor, adapted to track access of the
6 resources by computer users, so as to identify one or
7 more of the users with respective resources that they are
8 accessing, and to register the identification of the one
9 or more users and their respectively-accessed resources
10 with the map on the display.

1 31. A terminal according to claim 30, wherein the map
2 comprises a map of a group of pages configured for
3 reading by a browser program.

1 32. A terminal according to claim 31, wherein the group
2 of pages comprises pages of a World Wide Web site, which
3 is managed by means of the terminal.

1 33. A terminal according to claim 31, wherein the
2 processor is configured to receive notification when one
3 of the users enters or leaves one of the pages.

1 34. A terminal according to claim 33, wherein the
2 notification is provided by a synchronous event server
3 coupled to the network.

1   35. A terminal according to claim 34, wherein the
2   processor is further adapted to establish a synchronous
3   connection with one or more of the computer users by
4   means of the synchronous event server.

1   36. A terminal according to claim 30, wherein the
2   processor is adapted to generate, for one or more of the
3   resources, respective lists of the users accessing the
4   resources.

1   37. A terminal according to claim 30, wherein ·the
2   processor is adapted to generate, for one or more of the
3   resources, indications on the display of the respective
4   numbers of users accessing the resources.

1   38. A terminal according to claim 30, wherein the
2   processor is adapted, for a selected one of the users, to
3   drive the display so as to mark on the map the resources
4   that the selected user has accessed.

1   39. A terminal according to claim 30, wherein the
2   processor is adapted to initiate a synchronous
3   communication with at least one of the users responsive
4   to the registered identification of the user with the
5   respectively-accessed resource while the user is
6   accessing the resource.

1   40. A terminal according to claim 39, wherein the
2   synchronous communication comprises a chat session.

1   41. A terminal for visualizing access to a computer
2   resource, comprising:
3   a display, adapted to display an identification of
4   the resource; and
5   a processor, adapted to drive the display to display
6   an icon in association with the identification, the icon
7   having the form of a container for receiving a substance,

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8 such that a fill level of the substance in the container
9 indicates the number of users accessing the resource.

1 42. Apparatus for providing interactive access by a
2 first user to a group of resources via a computer
3 network, the apparatus comprising:
4   a display, adapted to display information; and
5   a processor, adapted to communicate via the network
6 so as to access a first resource in the group via the
7 network and to receive information, responsive to
8 accessing the first resource, regarding a second user who
9 is accessing a second resource in the group and to drive
10 the display to display the information,
11   wherein the processor is operative to enable the
12 first user to communicate with the second user via the
13 network responsive to the information, while the second
14 user is accessing the second resource.

1 43. Apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the group
2 of resources comprises a group of Web pages configured
3 for reading by a browser program run by the processor,
4 such that the first resource comprises a first page, and
5 the second resource comprises a second page, and wherein
6 the processor is configured to enable the first and
7 second users to communicate while browsing the pages.

1 44. Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the group
2 of pages comprises a World Wide Web site, and wherein the
3 processor is adapted to receive information regarding
4 visitors to pages of the site other than the first page.

1 45. Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to receive notification when the
3 second user enters or leaves one of the pages in the
4 group.

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1   46. Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the
2   processor is adapted to communicate with a synchronous
3   event server coupled to the network and to receive event
4   indications from the server with respect to the pages so
5   as to monitor other users entering and leaving the pages.

1   47. Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the pages
2   contain program code embedded in a textual description
3   thereof read by the browser program, which enables the
4   processor to receive the information regarding the second
5   user.

1   48. Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the
2   processor is configured to enable the first user to open
3   a chat session with the second user.

1   49. Apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the
2   processor is configured to enable the first user to share
3   an application related to the resources with the second
4   user.

1   50. A method for tracking visitors to a group of virtual
2   places accessible via a computer network, the method
3   comprising:
4   generating event indications responsive to access by
5   one or more of the visitors to at least a first virtual
6   place; and
7   conveying the event indications to a client for the
8   information of a user of the client who is not visiting
9   the first virtual place.

1   51. A method according to claim 50, wherein generating
2   the event indications comprises initiating an observer
3   process associated with the first virtual place, so as to
4   generate the event indications.

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1   52.   A method according to claim 51, wherein initiating
2   the   observer   process   comprises   initiating   observer
3   processes at a plurality of the virtual places.

1   53.   A method according to claim 50, wherein the virtual
2   places comprise Web pages.

1   54.   A   method   according   to   claim   50,   and   comprising
2   opening a synchronous communication link between the user
3   of the client and at least one of the visitors.

1   55.   A method according to claim 54, wherein opening the
2   synchronous   communication   link   comprises   opening   a   chat
3   window.

1   56.   A method according to claim 54, wherein opening the
2   synchronous   link   comprises   providing   a   shared
3   application.

1   57.   A synchronous server, comprising a processor coupled
2   to a computer network, which is adapted to track visitors
3   to a group of virtual places accessible via the network
4   so as to generate event indications responsive to access
5   by   one   or   more   of   the   visitors   to   at   least   a   first
6   virtual place, and to convey the event indications to a
7   client for the information of a user of the client who is
8   not visiting the first virtual place.

1   58.   A server according to claim 57, wherein the virtual
2   places comprise Web pages.

1   59.   A   server   according   to   claim   57,   wherein   the
2   processor is adapted to open a synchronous communication
3   link between the user of the client and at least one of
4   the visitors.

1   60.   A computer software product for monitoring activity
2   on a computer network, the product comprising a computer-
3   readable   medium   having   program   instructions   stored

4   therein, which when read by a computer, cause the

5   computer to display a map of a group of resources, which

6   are accessible via the computer network, and to track

7   access of the resources in the group by computer users so

8   as to identify one or more of the users with respective

9   resources that they are accessing and to register the

10   identification of the one or more users and their

11   respectively-accessed resources with the map.

1   61. A computer software product for visualizing access

2   to a computer resource, the product comprising a

3   computer-readable medium having program instructions

4   stored therein, which when read by a computer, cause the

5   computer to maintain a count of the number of users

6   accessing the resource and to display, in association

7   with an identification of the resource on a computer

8   display, an icon having the form of a container for

9   receiving a substance, such that a fill level of the

10   substance in the container indicates the number of users

11   accessing the resource.

1   62. A computer software product for interactive access

2   to a group of resources via a computer network, the

3   product comprising a computer-readable medium having

4   program instructions stored therein, which when read by a

5   computer operated by a first user, cause the computer,

6   upon accessing a first resource in the group via the

7   network, to receive information, responsive to accessing

8   the first resource, regarding a second user who is

9   accessing a second resource in the group, and to

10   establish communications via the network between the

11   first and second users via the network responsive to the

12   information, while the second user is accessing the

13   second resource.

1   63.   A computer software product for tracking visitors to
2   a   group   of   virtual   places   accessible   via   a   computer
3   network,   the   product   comprising   a   computer-readable
4   medium having program instructions stored therein, which
5   when read by a server, cause the server to generate event
6   indications   responsive   to   access   by   one   or   more   of   the
7   visitors to at least a first virtual place, and to convey
8   the event indications to a client for the information of
9   a   user   of   the   client   who   is   not   visiting   the   first
10 virtual place.